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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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Race to Lok Sabha

BangaloreMirror
Saturday, April 6, 2024
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Supply of indelible ink to states for LS polls completed; biggest chunk for UP

INK BEFORE YOU LEAP

The Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd has completed the supply of over 26.55 lakh vials of indelible ink worth approximately Rs 55 crore to various states and union territories for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, with the biggest share going to Uttar Pradesh.

The Karnataka government has been manufacturing the ink since 1962, solely for the Election Commission.

The seven-phase Lok Sabha polls will kick off on April 19 with the counting of votes set to take place on June 4. Assembly elections will be held simultaneously in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

The company said it had supplied over 25.98 lakh vials of indelible ink worth approximately Rs 36 crore for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls to various states and union territories. The highest supply as per order was to Uttar Pradesh, which received 3.64 lakh vials back then and the lowest for Lakshadweep at 125 vials of ink.

As against the previous Parliamentary elections, there has been an increase of 2.2 per cent in the supply of indelible ink this time.

According to the Election Commission, as of January, India has a voter base of nearly 97 crore out of which a maximum of over 15.30 crore are in Uttar Pradesh and a minimum of 57,500 in Lakshadweep.

"As on today, 26.55 lakh vials of indelible ink have been dispatched to all the states and union territories. The highest order was from Uttar Pradesh and as per demand, 3.58 lakh vials of ink has been supplied to UP while Lakshadweep with the lowest demand has been supplied with 110 vials of ink," the company's Managing Director K Mohammed Irfan told PTI.

The ink, which leaves a deep purple mark, is applied on the left forefinger of a person as proof that he or she has cast the vote to prevent multiple voting.

Workers pack indelible ink vials that are used during elections to prevent duplication of voting, at the government-run Mysore Paints and Varnish company in Mysuru on March 12

> **"As on today, 26.55 lakh vials of indelible ink have been dispatched to all the states and union territories. The highest order was from Uttar Pradesh**
>
> –K Mohammed Irfan, MD, The Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd

According to the data shared by the company, Maharashtra has been supplied with 2.68 lakh vials, West Bengal 2 lakh vials, Bihar 1.93 lakh vials, Tamil Nadu 1.75 lakh vials, Telangana 1.50 lakh vials, Madhya Pradesh 1.52 lakh vials, Karnataka 1.32 lakh vials, Rajasthan 1.30 lakh, Andhra Pradesh 1.16 lakh vials, Gujarat 1.13 lakh vials, Kerala 63,000 vials, Punjab 55,000 vials, Haryana 42,000 vials, Delhi 35,000 vials, Jammu and Kashmir 30,000 vials.

Similarly, Jharkhand received 75,380 vials, Himachal Pradesh 22,000 vials, Manipur 8,000 vials, Chandigarh 1,500 vials and Goa 5,000 vials among other states and union territories.

A 10 ml vial of ink can be used to mark the fingers of around 700 people. A polling station has around 1,500 voters.

According to EC, over 12 lakh polling stations would be set up across the country for the polls.

Irfan said the indelible ink is exported to more than 25 countries, including Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, South Africa and the Maldives.

However, as different countries follow different modes for applying the ink, the company supplies the ink as per customer specifications.

In Cambodia and the Maldives, for example, voters need to dip his/her finger into the ink, while in Burkina Faso it is applied with a brush; nozzles are used for its use in Turkey. **–PTI**

Somashekar holds meeting with Congress

Estranged BJP MLA ST Somashekar on Friday allegedly held a meeting of his supporters to back the Congress candidate for the 2024 polls from Bangalore North Lok Sabha segment M V Rajeev Gowda, eliciting sharp reactions from the saffron party.

Rajeev Gowda, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and other Congress leaders are seen in the pictures of the purported meeting held by the MLA in the city, which was telecast by some news channels.

The MLA from Yeshwanthpur in the city had voted in favour of Congress citing "conscience", during the polls to four seats of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka on February 27, which had caused embarrassment to the BJP.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje is the BJP candidate from Bangalore North and Somashekar had recently expressed his displeasure about the choice.

Claiming that he has been insulted by the BJP and its candidate, as "they don't want him", Somashekar said his supporters and people have asked him to cooperate with those who help for the development of the constituency. BJP reacted strongly to Somashekar's move to hold the meeting.

"ST Somashekar has kept his foot outside the BJP. He has also voted against the party in the Rajya Sabha polls. So this question does not arise at all. He cannot be called our party legislator now," senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka told reporters, when asked about the meeting with Congress leaders.

When asked why the party is not expelling him, he said, "the state (unit) has no powers to expel an MLA, only central leaders have the powers. Let the election be over, the central leaders will decide what they have to do." **–PTI**

Alliance with BJP depends on how they treat us, says HDK

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy has said he is sincerely working for NDA's better prospects in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and the continuation of alliance with BJP, after the parliamentary elections, will depend on how his party and its leaders are treated.

The former Chief Minister further said that given an opportunity and if Prime Minister Narendra Modi has confidence in him, he wants to be the agriculture minister, in the event of NDA coming back to power at the Centre.

In an exclusive interview to PTI Videos, after filing his nomination from Mandya on Thursday, the state JD(S) President said: "We being part of the NDA depends on how our party leaders are treated in the future. We are sincerely working and we want a long-standing relationship with BJP. But ultimately we will take a decision depending on how we are treated and how much respect we get from the BJP."

JD(S) headed by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda joined the BJP-led NDA in September last year.

As part of the seat-sharing agreement, the BJP would contest in 25 constituencies and the JD(S) in the remaining three -- Mandya, Hassan and Kolar -- in Karnataka.

Kumaraswamy, son of Gowda, made no secret of his desire to become Union Agriculture Minister.

"It is not only the aspirations of people of Mandya to see me as union minister, even my BJP friends feel that it will be good for the state if I become a minister. I come from an agricultural background and given an opportunity I want to be the agriculture minister and bring a good name for the government. If the Prime Minister believes that I can do good work and if I am given an opportunity I want to work in the agricultural sector," he said.

HD Kumaraswamy meets Amit Shah in the city

The JD(S) leader, who is an MLA from Channapatna in the neighbouring Ramanagara district, said he was under a lot of pressure from the people of Mandya to contest from there.

"We have entered into an alliance with BJP to fight for better prospects for Karnataka and not for political survival. It is going to be mutually beneficial for both the BJP and JD(S). The Congress took advantage of the vote-split between us in the last (Assembly) election, we realised the mistake and we have decided to fight the Congress together," he said.

Stating that it is BJP which is the "natural ally" of JD(S) and not the Congress, Kumaraswamy said his party has always fought the grand old party for the last 50 years.

"Our last alliance with BJP (for 20 months from January 2006), when I was the Chief Minister was a good period and because of some misunderstanding and some misdeeds of miscreants we had to part ways," he said, adding that leaders of parties and cadres are now sincerely working for each other.

"This time around there is a lot of positivity, energy and synergy between us. Be it (B S) Yediyurappa (BJP veteran) or Deve Gowda (JDS patriarch) or be it any of us. We all are working for each other to see to it that the NDA alliance gets all the 28 seats in Karnataka," he added. **–PTI**

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With no rainfall since January, day & night temperatures well above normal by about 3°C in Bengaluru

HOT DATES AHEAD

Highest temperature recorded on April 2, at 37.2°C this year

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A couple of years ago, Bengaluru experienced such cool weather for a few days that it was cooler than most hill stations such as Ooty.

However, the situation has deteriorated to the point where Bengaluru is now hotter than cities like Delhi. On Thursday, Bengaluru reported a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius, while the Bengaluru airport region recorded 37.6 degrees Celsius.

According to weather analysis by Skymet, "Bengaluru has been recording soaring temperatures for the past week. The highest temperature of this year was registered on April 2 (37.2°C), with the mean monthly temperature in April being 34.1°C.

No rainfall has been recorded since the first week of January 2024. Both day and night temperatures have been consistently running well above normal by about 3°C. Bengaluru, sitting at an elevation of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

> Bengaluru has been hotter than Delhi over the past few days — Skymet

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V	Vibrant Design: Dark chrome front grille	✓	✗	✗
	Vibrant Design: Chrome finish outside door handles	✓	✗	✗
	Vibrant Design: Ambient lighting	✓	✓	✗
E	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Power driver seat - 4 way	✓	✗	✗
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: 2-step rear reclining seat	✓	✗	✗
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Power Windows - Driver side auto up-down with safety	✓	✗	✗
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Puddle lamps	✓	✗	✓
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Auto healthy air purifier	✓	✗	✓
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Front map lamps	✓	✓	✗
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Leather wrapped gear knob	✓	✗	✗
	Exceptional comfort & Convenience: Lane change indicator	✓	✗	✗
N	Next level technology & Connectivity: 60+ Bluelink features	✓	✓	✗
	Next level technology & Connectivity: Sounds of nature	✓	✗	✗
	Next level technology & Connectivity: Home to car (H2C) with Alexa & Google Voice Assistant	✓	✗	✗
	Next level technology & Connectivity: Firmware Over-the-Air (FOTA) update	✓	✗	✓
U	Uncompromised Safety: Cornering lamps	✓	✗	✗
	Uncompromised Safety: Brake Assist System (BAS)	✓	✗	✗
	Uncompromised Safety: Vehicle Stability Management (VSM)	✓	✗	✗
	Uncompromised Safety: Telematics switches (SOS, RSA & Bluelink)	✓	✗	✗
	Uncompromised Safety: Automatic headlamps with escort function	✓	✗	✓
	Uncompromised Safety: Speed sensing auto door lock	✓	✗	✓
	Uncompromised Safety: Tyre pressure monitoring system (Highline)	✓	✗	✓
	Uncompromised Safety: Impact sensing auto door unlock	✓	✓	✗
	Uncompromised Safety: Level 1 ADAS	✓	✗	✗
E	Exciting Performance: Diesel Engine Advantage	✓	✗	✓
	Exciting Performance: 7-Speed DCT	✓	✗	✓
	Exciting Performance: Paddle shifters	✓	✗	✓
	Exciting Performance: Drive mode select (normal, eco, sport)	✓	✗	✓

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Jazz beats

Banyan Tree's 'World Jazz Festival' is back with its fourth edition, featuring musicians from the Netherlands, USA, China, and South Africa. The acts this year will be presenting compositions that are representative of Eastern, Dutch, and South African jazz traditions, with a sincere emphasis on paying tribute to some jazz legends. The performances include a tribute to Coltrane by Ben van den Dungen Quartet, the South African Jazz Legacy by Thapelo Khumisi Trio ft. Titi Luzipo, the New York Round Midnight Orchestra ft. Alexander Hurricane Beets, Tom Van der Zaal Quintet ft. Fluerine and Femke Mooren, and Chi Quartet. **When: April 19; Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall**

02 Story time

Celebrate the harvest festival with RangaYugadi through an event titled 'Kathaa Kaala.' This Yugadi, Ranga Shankara hopes to harvest the literary richness of the land. The event will be in three parts: a play based on short stories and a reading of folk and short stories. This year's event will feature three plays based on stories written by Masti Venkatesha Iyengar, Sunanda Prakash Kadame, and Jayant Kaikini, as well as two story reading sessions. **When: April 7**
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar

03 Comic tale

Movie Magic @ Urban Solace, in association with the Parallel Cinema Club, brings to you the film screening of "Girlfriends," a 1978 American comedy-drama film produced and directed by Claudia Weill and written by Vicki Polon. The story is about Susan Weinblatt, a Jewish photographer who experiences loneliness once her roommate Anne moves out of their apartment in New York City. It was the first American independent film to be funded with grants, but private investors helped complete the film.
When: April 7, 6 pm
Where: Urban Solace—Cafe for the Soul

Exam result puzzle: Right answer, wrong evaluation

There are obvious errors in totalling; correct answers are marked wrong

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The ongoing disputes regarding the 'board' exams for grades five, eight, and nine persist. Presently, school teachers and students claim that the assessment of answer scripts was rushed, resulting in numerous evaluation errors. Nonetheless, government officials have refuted these allegations, asserting that the papers were evaluated fairly and meticulously.

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools, expressed serious reservations about the quality of the evaluation and the subsequent distribution of these scripts to the respective schools. He said that there have been widespread complaints from schools citing instances where answer scripts had not been corrected adequately, which led to several problems, including obvious mistakes, improper allocation of marks, and overall confusion among students and teachers alike.

"One of the primary concerns highlighted by schools is the impact of these errors on students' academic performance. Some bright students had unfairly lost marks due to these discrepancies in evaluation. Such mistakes not only undermine their efforts but also raise questions about the credibility and reliability of the examination process. Moreover, there is a lack of clarity regarding the protocol for students who have failed the ninth standard. We still don't have answers as to whether such students would be required to repeat the entire year or if there would be supplementary exams to provide them with a chance to improve their grades," said Kumar. This uncertainty further exacerbates the challenges faced in the evaluation and grading process and adds to the existing confusion and anxiety among students and their parents. The ambiguity surrounding this policy contributes to the overall confusion and lack of direction in the education system, he added.

Another teacher stated, "Today, we received fifth-grade answer scripts, but the quality of the evaluation is disheartening. There are glaring errors in totalling, overlooking some answers entirely, and even marking correct answers as wrong. There are murmurs about first-grade students evaluating fifth-grade papers, though they are unverified. This situation begs the question, Why hold board exams if such rampant errors persist?."

"Such mistakes not only undermine students efforts but also raise questions about the credibility and reliability of the exam process
– D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools

It's worth noting that the 'board' exams for grades five, eight, and nine have been contentious from the beginning. Initially, teachers raised concerns about the workload, claiming they were instructed to assess 80 papers for fifth grade, 60 for eighth grade, and 40 for ninth grade per day. This decision was met with criticism and public backlash, leading to revised expectations with 50 and 30 papers for the fifth and eighth grades. An education expert commented, "Considering there are approximately 45,000 teachers in the state, if all participate in the evaluation process, it would typically require five to six days to complete. However, the education department mandated that it be finished within just three days. This raised questions about the quality of the evaluation. How can educators avoid mental strain with such overwhelming workloads? Despite the shortage of teachers, students are compelled to take exams under stringent surveillance by cameras and invigilators, while their answer sheets are processed mechanically, lacking human empathy. This approach has sparked further criticism regarding the examination system's fairness and its alignment with genuine educational values."

The exams were initially halted by a single bench of the High Court, then subsequently permitted following a decision by a division bench. Subsequently, teachers obtained a temporary suspension of the exams from the Supreme Court, only for the division bench to later authorise the government to proceed with conducting the exams once again.

Bengaluru's temperature swings from Ooty to Delhi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

around 3,000 feet on a plateau, is relatively better off due to its height above sea level compared to the surroundings. April and May are the hottest months for the city. April surpasses May as thunderstorm activity becomes more frequent in May, transferring accumulated heat and resulting in cooling. Bengaluru recorded its highest temperature in April in the last eight years, since 2016. The highest ever mercury level was recorded in April 2016 when the city observatory reached a high of 39.2°C. In contrast, the city recorded 37.2°C on April 2, 2024, the highest in the last eight years."

The report also stated, "Interestingly, Bengaluru has been hotter than Delhi over the past few days. The mean temperature over the last seven days, between March 28 and April 3, was 36.2°C for Bengaluru and 35.2°C for Delhi (Safdarjung). During this period, Delhi recorded a high of 37.8°C on March 29, and Bengaluru registered a high of 37.2°C on April 2. On Tuesday, both Delhi and Bengaluru recorded a maximum of 36.6°C. Day temperatures are expected to remain around 36-37°C for both cities over the next week. While Delhi may experience light rain or drizzle, Bengaluru stands a chance only after April 11, 2024." Furthermore, an update from Karnataka Weather on X platform mentioned, "Rainfall can be expected for the city around mid-month,April 13-14." Experts suggest that exposure to high outdoor and indoor temperatures can induce heat stress, directly and indirectly leading to heat-related illnesses. As temperatures steadily increase, here are a few things you can do to stay cool and avoid heat strokes. "Heat-related illnesses include heat rash (prickly heat), edema (swelling of hands, feet, and ankles), heat cramps (muscle cramps), heat tetany, heat syncope (fainting), heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

"If you feel unwell and experience any heat stroke symptoms, then move to a cool place and drink liquids. Water is the best measure for regulating your body temperature. Stay in ventilated areas and cool places, block direct sunlight and heat waves by drawing curtains during the day and keeping them open at night. Wear thin, loose, cotton garments preferably in light colors. Use an umbrella, hat, or any other traditional headgear to cover your head. Wear shoes or slippers when going outside. The symptoms of heat stroke include dizziness or fainting, extreme thirst, nausea or vomiting, decreased urination, headache, rapid breathing or heartbeat. If you experience any painful muscular spasms, particularly in your legs, hands, or abdomen, rest immediately in a cool place and drink oral rehydration solutions. Avoid strenuous activities when outside in the afternoon, do not go out barefoot, avoid high protein food, and do not eat stale food. Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicles," according to the National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health.

Cafe blast case: Social circle of accused on NIA radar

In a bid to bolster its investigation into the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has widened its scope by delving into the social circles and past associations of the accused, including friends in school-time and college.

As part of its investigation process, the anti-terror agency has intensified its efforts in the case by summoning and scrutinizing some acquaintances, including college and school-time friends, of both absconding and arrested accused.

NIA said that the individuals from various spheres of the suspects' lives are being called in for questioning to gather crucial evidence and information pertinent to the case.

This move comes as part of the agency's strategy to piece together the puzzle surrounding the alleged activities of the accused. With a focus on tracing the suspects' connections and possible motives, the NIA is leaving no stone unturned in its pursuit of justice.

"NIA to gather evidence and information in the case have been summoning and examining all of the acquaintances including college and school time friends of the absconding and arrested accused persons," said the NIA in a statement.

However, the NIA kept tight-lipped in disclosing specific details about the individuals summoned or the nature of the evidence being sought.

The agency further clarified "the case being terror incident, any information on the identity of the witnesses may apart from hampering investigation may also put to risk the individuals being summoned."

"Also, unverified news items hamper effective investigations in the case." The NIA also requested "the cooperation of all in arrest of absconding accused persons."

Meanwhile, sources suggested, the rigorous interrogation of acquaintances suggests a meticulous approach by the investigative agency in unraveling the complexities of the case.

Key accused, co-conspirator identified

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has identified Mussavir Hussain Shazib as the key accused who carried out the blast and Abdul Matheen Taahaa as the co-conspirator.
The NIA has identified the accused person who carried out the IED blast as Mussavir Hussain Shazib and the co-conspirator as Abdul Matheen Taahaa, residents of Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district. Muzammil Shareef, a resident of Chikkamagaluru, who extended logistics support to the accused, was arrested on March 26.

As the investigation unfolds, the NIA remains committed to its mandate of upholding the law and ensuring that justice prevails. As part of efforts to locate the absconding accused persons, the NIA had conducted searches on 18 locations in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. **-ANI**

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

The zebra problem & other conundrums

The politician is a zebra. The zebra is always caught in a binary — of stripes. The animal is either a white entity with black stripes or black with white stripes.

The dilemma is, when the zebra says it's white, then white it is; and if a moment later says it's black, then so it shall be.

This is achieved with ease, oftentimes, especially as elections near in this geography. Of late a whole lot of instances are cases in point.

At the moment, it is as though herds of zebras are undergoing a rapid colour transformation, one-sided and almost irreversible. First signs of this trend emerged a decade ago after the current regime assumed power in 2014.

Confused and cornered zebras start believing they are the colour of power, either under immense pressure of blackmail/opportunism/money offered as alleged or what have you, no doubt. However, they are all happy to be zebras — never has the pasture been better.

The other day, an articulate spokesperson of the primary opposition party and a staunch critic of the BJP joined the saffron outfit and alleged his former camp (the Congress) was against wealth creation. He claimed the outfit's stance on the Ram temple was flawed, according to reports. What seems incredibly bizarre however is that up until now, the turncoat in question, a professor-turned-politician, did not waste a single opportunity to put the BJP and the prime minister in the dock. The flip flop is hugely perplexing and amusingly suspect.

The aftermath of confused zebras that cannot figure they are black or white has sullied the electorate's trust in the democratic process.

A healthy democracy is defined by overwhelming participation of its constituent peoples. On the contrary, reports are suggesting how disinterested the young voters in this country are ahead of a make or break election.

Such alienation of vulnerable peoples by gentrification isn't an India-specific conundrum. It is the fallout of the rich, influential and the elite with the help of corrupt politicians appropriating the remaining resources of the planet before the climate emergency wrecks us all. That big tech and the politician-oligopoly nexus in emerging economies of the neoliberal world are aiding the gradual weakening of democracy, international law and justice are seemingly on the tip of the iceberg that is headed towards humanity's ark in these tumultuous times.

Yes. So, the unthinkable is real now. The impossible is the norm - in the realm of politics and climate the world over. Here a chief minister is behind bars and in the Middle East people are bombarded to statelessness as the United States and Israel play good cop/bad cop over the fate of Palestinians.

It's not as though we are witnessing a public backlash over lost values systems, which is needed the most, either. The political discourse has deteriorated so much worldwide that ordinary folks no longer look forward to the chance of politics saving them or salvaging what's lost; they don't give a damn about the zebras and surely they aren't shocked at the absurd developments that unravel every day even as awry weather systems close in from all sides.

In the politics of climate just as in the horrifying climate of politicking, the rich, powerful and already established dominions such as the west are stereotyping rapid transformations and adaptive mechanisms species are undergoing in the fallout the climate emergency.

An oft-used term 'invasive' is comfortably thrown in when you find a resident species especially in Asia abruptly emerging and taking shelter in a geography termed the 'west'. Poor plants, birds and animals aren't aware that humans have been in charge and there exists a certain hierarchy. Of course, boundaries. What were they thinking!

Rearrangement and tweaking of habitats and settlements amongst species are commonplace and human beings should not in earnest interfere as they please as is often done as far as other humans are concerned in varied geography. Human drawn boundaries are limiting peoples in the global south in the face of the climate crisis, for instance, depriving them of resources, livelihood, and eventually life itself.

Strangely the terminology used such as invasive - for instance in the case of the Asian hornet which is purportedly rapidly propagating in the west - reflect the deep-rooted bias and perceived entitlement of lands the west has been taking for granted.

Species do not need human consent to move from geography to geography with changing climate, more so if it is human induced - in the ideal scenario humans shouldn't too but alas that isn't the case. To impose restriction on other forms of life on the planet with bias derived from inherent racism is appalling in this day and age.

When one talks about a species from southeast Asia arriving in Europe and decimating native insects there, what is conveniently overlooked is the western plunder in colonies in eastern swathes just decades ago.

Stadium's water use under NGT scanner

Tribunal asks BWSSB to file report with all details about quantity, source of water supplied to Chinnaswamy stadium

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National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to file a report disclosing complete details of the quantity and source of water that was supplied to M Chinnaswamy stadium during recently held Indian Premier League (IPL) matches.

The green court has given the direction after taking suo moto cognizance of a news report that highlighted high water requirements at the stadium during IPL matches. As per the report, the daily water requirement at Chinnaswamy stadium during cricket matches reaches approximately 75,000 liters.

The three IPL matches were held on March 25, 29 and April 2. During these days, BWSSB supplied treated water to the stadium from the Cubbon Park Wastewater Treatment Plant after a request from the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

After taking cognizance, the tribunal has thus impleaded the member secretary of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), BWSSB chairman, Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Bengaluru, and Secretary of KSCA.

"BWSSB is directed to file a detailed report disclosing complete details of quantity and source of water being used in the concerned stadium and also the quality of treated water supplied. BWSSB has banned the use of drinking water for car washing, gardening, construction, and maintenance work in Bengaluru but has permitted the use of such huge quantity of water in the stadium for the purpose of holding matches," noted the order copy by NGT's principal bench.

IPL matches have been held at M Chinnaswamy stadium

Notably, Bengaluru is reeling under a severe water crisis due to depleted groundwater table and below-average rainfall last monsoon. Owing to a shortage of water, BWSSB has also banned the use of drinking water for car washing, construction activities, gardening, and maintenance-related work. Nearly a month ago, the board had announced that construction projects in the city should use treated water only and the use of drinking water for this purpose will not be allowed. The Board stated that a fine of Rs 5,000 will be imposed on those using BWSSB water supply or borewell water for non-essential purposes, including construction work.

> **"BWSSB has banned use of drinking water for many activities but has allowed use of huge quantity in the stadium..."** – NGT order

To tide over the current water scarcity situation, the Karnataka Government recently passed an order allowing residential complexes in the city to sell a maximum of 50% of treated water collected from their Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). NGT has also underlined that the stadium is also using groundwater, of which no record at present is available. After receiving the notice, KSPCB has sought three weeks to file a response.

After 47 medicos fall ill, concerns raised over BMCRI hostel hygiene

Iffath Fathima
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Doctors at the Bangalore Medical College Research Institute (BMCRI) have expressed concern after 47 doctors staying at the girls' hostel fell ill, requiring hospitalisation due to symptoms of diarrhea and dehydration.

Concerns have been raised about a potential cholera outbreak. However, Dr. Ramesh Krishna K, the Dean and Director of Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, stated, "Over 47 students from BMCRI girls' hostel have been admitted to Victoria Hospital. Twenty-eight are in Trauma Care Centre, 13 are in H Block, and three are in ICU for observation. All have presented with loose stools and dehydration. They are diagnosed with acute gastroenteritis. All are stable. Investigations have been sent, and treatment in the form of antibiotics and IV fluids is being administered. We are awaiting the reports."

Several PG doctors from the hospital, speaking anonymously, highlighted that the hospitalised doctors from the hostel were affected by the poor sanitary conditions. "The hostel's sanitary condition is very poor. One of the drinking water purifiers emits a foul smell. Despite informing the hostel authorities months ago, no action has been taken," stated a PG doctor.

The doctors even complained about the toilets not being maintained properly in the hostel and the flushes not working. They even alleged that many of them have been getting urinary tract infections due to the unhygienic conditions. "We had complained multiple times but no action was taken. This could have been prevented but it is clear inaction and negligence from college management that has led to this situation," said a doctor.

> **Food quality poor, toilets unclean, water purifiers stink, complain PG medical students**

The doctors even shared pictures of the bad condition of the toilets. "The irony is that the doctors who are trained to combat such outbreaks are themselves admitted," said the doctors.

Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Randeep D said, "We cannot conclude it's a cholera outbreak until the test results are out. The BBMP health officers will visit the place and take necessary measures."

Now's the right time to invest in Mysuru

In recent times, residents of Bengaluru have been increasingly drawn towards the idea of purchasing plots in the serene city of Mysuru. This trend has been fuelled by several factors, making Mysuru a preferred destination for those looking to invest in real estate outside Bengaluru.

Realtors say that investing in plots in Mysuru presents an opportunity for robust returns on investments. Mysuru, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, is experiencing rapid urbanisation and infrastructural development, making it an attractive destination for property investments. The city's strategic location, and proximity to major IT hubs like Bengaluru, ensures a steady influx of professionals and investors seeking residential and commercial properties.

Additionally, Mysuru's well-planned urban expansion, coupled with government initiatives to boost industrial growth and tourism, further enhances the investment appeal. As demand for land increases and property values appreciate, investing in plots in Mysuru promises not only significant capital appreciation but also the potential for rental income, making it a lucrative proposition for investors seeking long-term wealth creation in the real estate sector.

Heritage and natural beauty beckon

One of the key attractions of Mysuru is its rich heritage and cultural significance. The city boasts many iconic landmarks such as the Mysuru Palace, Chamundi Hill, and various heritage sites, offering a glimpse into its royal past. Realtors in Mysuru have witnessed a noticeable increase in inquiries and sales from Bengaluru-based buyers. Suresh Urs, a local real estate agent, said, "The demand for plots in Mysuru has been rising steadily, especially among buyers from Bengaluru. They appreciate the city's heritage, tranquillity, and improved connectivity."

Escape the hustle and bustle

Compared to the bustling streets of Bengaluru, Mysuru offers a much quieter and peaceful environment. The traffic congestion is significantly less, providing residents with a more relaxed and stress-free lifestyle. Many Bengalureans are drawn to the prospect of owning a plot in Mysuru to escape the chaotic city life and enjoy a more laid-back pace.

Hybrid working culture fuels demand

With the rise of hybrid working models, where individuals split their time between remote work and office visits, the demand for plots in Mysuru has surged. Many professionals find it appealing to have a residence in Bengaluru and Mysuru, allowing them to seamlessly alternate between the two cities.

Improved connectivity

The construction of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway has significantly reduced travel time between the two cities to around two hours by road. Additionally, introducing ultra-fast trains like Vande Bharat and Shatabdi has made train travel between Bengaluru and Mysuru more efficient, taking less than two hours. These developments have made Mysuru a more accessible and desirable location for property investment.

Affordable property prices

Another compelling factor driving Bengalureans towards Mysuru is the relatively lower property prices. Compared to Bengaluru, where real estate prices have soared in recent years, Mysuru offers more affordable options for buying homes or plots.

"Mysuru presents a diverse range of property options to potential buyers. There is something to suit every preference and budget.

Many residential projects in Mysuru are strategically located closer to the city centre, offering easy access to essential amenities and facilities," Urs added.

Buyers like Priya Devi, who recently purchased a plot in Mysuru, shared her experience, saying, "Owning a plot in Mysuru has been a dream come true for me.

The city's charm, coupled with the affordability factor, made it an irresistible choice. I look forward to spending quality time here away from the city's hustle."

As Bengalureans continue to seek refuge from urban chaos, Mysuru stands out as a beacon of tranquillity and a promising investment opportunity in the real estate market.

— Prakash VL

Big real estate options near Big Banyan Tree

Affordable, serene, and connected: B'luru northwest's Magadi Road & Tavarekere emerges as property hotspot

The Tavarekere-Magadi Road areas have become focal points for property buyers, experiencing rapid growth in the real estate market. One of the hotspots in these peripheries is the plots located near Magadi Road and Big Banyan Tree, attracting both property buyers and potential investors due to the array of advantages these areas offer compared to others.

"Property investment is often a lifetime commitment, and buyers carefully consider various factors before making a purchase decision. The properties in and around Big Banyan Tree stand out for their affordability, offering budget-friendly options, which is a major advantage.

Many individuals seeking a quieter environment away from the city's hustle and bustle are looking to make their next home in areas with less traffic and more greenery. Tavarekere meets these criteria exceptionally well, boasting ample green spaces that create serene and appealing localities. Moreover, the properties here are well-developed, making it easier for people to envision and start building their dream homes," stated Suresh Gowda, a property developer.

Krishna D, a resident of Tavarekere, said, "Tavarekere and Magadi Road, once considered a distant suburb of Bengaluru, is now emerging as a prime destination for property buyers. Many individuals planning to own a plot or construct a house are turning their attention towards Magadi Road for various compelling reasons.

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Real estate developers in Tavarekere believe that the northwest areas of Bengaluru offer several favourable factors that are attracting property buyers."

Connectivity emerges as a significant advantage for property buyers and developers alike. Currently, the Metro network expansion has reached Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) on Nelamangala Road, with plans to extend it to Kadabagere on Magadi Road.

With construction nearing completion, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) aims to unveil this project next year. Once operational, the Metro line will facilitate easier travel for locals to destinations like Majestic, Kanakapura, Mysuru Road, and potentially the airport. Additionally, plans are underway to connect the Metro network to the airport, offering residents a convenient train option.

The NICE Road is another significant advantage, as Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) operates services via NICE Road, enabling residents to reach Electronic City and Whitefield without navigating city traffic. This abundance of commuting options makes Nelamangala an appealing choice for property buyers compared to other parts of the city with limited transport options. **-Prakash VL**

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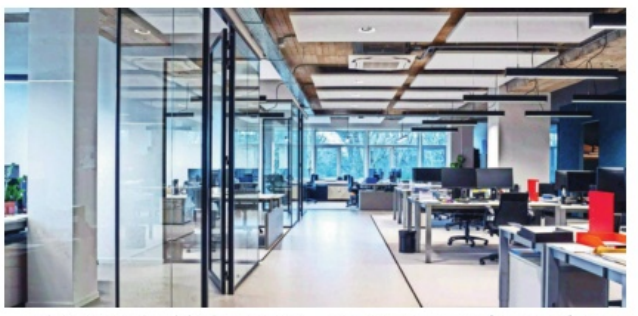
B'luru real estate market sees surge in office space leasing



Bengaluru has emerged as a frontrunner in green-certified office supply, accounting for 46 per cent of the share in the first quarter of 2024. The key sectors contributing to this growth include flexible space operators (48 per cent), technology (21 per cent), and BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) with a 14 per cent share.

In a recent announcement, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd, a leading real estate consulting firm in India, revealed the key findings from its report 'CBRE India Office Figures Q1 2024.'

The report sheds light on the booming office space leasing sector in Bengaluru, showcasing a significant 40 per cent year-on-year increase in office space leasing, reaching 4.7 million sq. ft. in the first quarter of 2024 compared to 3.4 million sq. ft. in the same period in 2023. This surge in leasing activity has been predominantly driven by sectors such as technology (31 per cent), engineering & manufacturing (22 per cent), and automobile (16 per cent).

The report highlights some key transactions that took place during the first quarter of 2024 in Bengaluru, including Bosch leasing 7,00,000 sqft in Bengaluru Lifesciences Park, LTI Mindtree leasing 6,35,600 sqft in L&T Tech Park – Block S2, and Mercedes Benz leasing 4,18,000 sqft in Brigade Tech Gardens – C5.

Further insights from the report highlight that office space take-up in Bengaluru was primarily driven by small-sized deals (less than 50,000 sqft) during the first quarter of 2024. Additionally, non-SEZ (Special Economic Zone) spaces led both supply and absorption, accounting for 84 per cent and 66 per cent respectively.

Anshuman Magazine, chairman & CEO, India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, shared his perspective on the Indian economy's growth trajectory and the resilience of the office sector.

In the larger context of India's office sector, there was a gross absorption of 14.4 million sqft during Jan-Mar '24 across 9 cities, marking a slight decline of 3 per cent year-on-year. Development completions were recorded at 9.8 million sqft during the same period, witnessing a 10 per cent decline compared to last year. Bengaluru led the office leasing activity, followed by Delhi NCR and Hyderabad, with these three cities accounting for 65 per cent of the total leasing activity during this quarter.

Kanakapura Road unlocks investment opportunities with affordable plots

Investing in plots along Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru, has become increasingly attractive due to several key factors contributing to potential good returns on investment. Kanakapura Road is a rapidly developing area situated to the south of Bengaluru, known for its scenic beauty, peaceful surroundings, and strategic location.

One of the primary reasons investors are drawn to Kanakapura Road is the availability of affordable plots. Compared to some of the more central areas of Bengaluru, property prices along Kanakapura Road are relatively lower, making it accessible to a wide range of investors. These affordable plots are particularly appealing to first-time buyers, young professionals, and investors looking to diversify their portfolios.

Sandeep MN, a realtor, said, "The presence of ongoing and planned infrastructure projects adds significant value to investments in this area. The government and private developers are actively investing in improving connectivity, which is a key driver of property appreciation. The Metro connectivity, for instance, has been a game-changer for Kanakapura Road. The Metro line not only enhances accessibility to other parts of Bengaluru but also boosts the overall attractiveness of the area for residential and commercial purposes."

Another crucial aspect contributing to the growth of realty in Kanakapura Road is its serene and green environment. The area is known for its lush greenery, open spaces, and relatively low pollution levels compared to the city centre. This appeals to homebuyers and investors who prioritise a healthy and peaceful living environment. The demand for properties in such natural settings is consistently high, translating into good potential returns on investment.

Compared to some of the more central areas of Bengaluru, property prices along Kanakapura Road are relatively lower, making it accessible to a wide range of investors. These affordable plots are appealing to first-time buyers & investors looking to diversify their portfolios

Moreover, the infrastructure developments are not limited to Metro connectivity. Kanakapura Road is witnessing upgrades in road networks as well. The planned four-laning of the highway and the development of bypasses at key locations will further enhance accessibility and convenience for residents and commuters. Improved roads not only reduce travel time but also increase the overall desirability of the area for real estate investments.

Realtors said that the diversity of property options along Kanakapura Road caters to various budget preferences. From affordable plots to high-end developments, there is something for every investor. This diversity ensures a steady demand for properties, which is a fundamental factor in ensuring good returns on investment.

"Investing in plots along Kanakapura Road presents a compelling opportunity for investors looking for good returns. The combination of affordable pricing, infrastructure developments, natural surroundings, and diverse property options makes Kanakapura Road a promising destination for real estate investments with long-term growth potential," added Sandeep.

-Prakash VL

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

DESSERT TIME!

A Plain Tiger Butterfly is feeding on honey.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sambhav**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Thirsty times: Booster pump repair delayed

Residents of Prashant Extension struggle as vital repair lags, while BWSSB scrambles to address acute shortages with tanker deliveries

Residents of Prashant Extension near Whitefield are enduring significant hardship due to an acute shortage of drinking water. While Prashant Extension is not the sole area facing this issue, the problem here differs from others. It's not about the availability of water but rather the delay in repairing a booster pump crucial for ensuring water supply to all households in Prashant Extension. The area boasts a considerable number of senior citizens who find it challenging to pursue private water suppliers for their needs. Residents are well aware of the reasons behind the delay in fixing the booster pump issue. "We have maintained communication with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers regarding the booster pump problem. They are making their best efforts to resolve the issue, but unfortunately, it's experiencing delays," stated Jagadish, President of the Prashant Extension Residents' Association.

It is reported that residents have been experiencing water shortages since the booster pump broke down. "We appreciate the efforts made by the BWSSB authorities to provide water through tankers, but they are unable to supply adequate quantities to the residents. It would be immensely helpful if the BWSSB engineers could repair the booster pump to ensure a sufficient supply of water to all households," stated Jaganmohan Rao, an executive committee member of the Prashant Extension Residents' Association.

Stating that the entire Bengaluru is grappling with a water crisis, but it is 100 times worse at Prashant Extension, Radha Kannan, a resident, mentioned that a BWSSB engineer arranged to supply around 4,000 litres through a water tanker a few weeks ago. "I am unable to procure water from private water tankers due to the high demand. It would be helpful if the BWSSB arranged frequent water supply through tankers. I hope the BWSSB engineers resolve the booster pump issue soon for the benefit of residents," said Radha Kannan.

Meanwhile, BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer Ravikumar explained that the fixing of the booster pump was delayed due to certain reasons. "Some parts of the booster pump were stolen. Later, the pump was damaged while being transported from the workshop. It will be installed in a few days, and water pumping will commence shortly," stated the BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer. He added that arrangements are being made to supply water in tankers to the residents.

A private water tanker supplying water at Prashant Extension

DID YOU KNOW?

During World War II, when rice was scarce, the Mavalli Tiffin Room chain of restaurants in Bengaluru in novatively introduced rava as a substitute for rice in idli, a beloved South Indian dish. Thus, the story of Rava Idli began. Today, it's considered the healthier alternative to traditional rice idli. This ingenious adaptation not only addressed the wartime rice shortage but also paved the way for a new culinary tradition. The rava idli's popularity has endured, showcasing the resilience and creativity of Indian cuisine in adapting to challenging circumstances. Its simplicity, coupled with its nutritional benefits, has made it a staple breakfast option in many households. The versatile nature of rava idli has led to various innovative recipes and adaptations, further enriching the culinary landscape.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

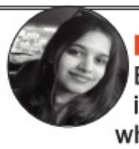
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

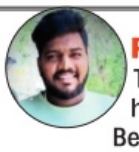
Share your thoughts on how Bengaluru balances its modern, tech-driven identity with its rich historical heritage.

Susmita, BM Reader
Bengaluru balances its modern identity with its rich historical heritage through initiatives like heritage preservation and cultural events. The coexistence of contemporary innovation and cultural richness adds depth to the city.



Ramya, BM Reader
Bengaluru effectively preserves its cultural and historical aspects while embracing advancements. Celebrations like Karaga and Anamma festivals remain relevant, largely due to their effective promotion through social media.

Ranjit, BM Reader
Bengaluru is filled with rich historical and tech heritage. It's very modern and, at the same time, it advances in a balanced manner. We see pub culture and Ganesh Chaturthi, manual to auto, it's filled with all the necessities.



Pavan, BM Reader
The city is home to several historical landmarks such as the Bengaluru Palace, Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace. The city has also been able to preserve its traditional markets such as the Chickpet Market and the KR Market.

Sushant, BM Reader
Bengaluru has done an admirable job of balancing its modern, tech-driven identity with its rich historical heritage. The city's success in this regard can be attributed to its forward-thinking leaders.

Bhuvan, BM Reader
The city's museums and art galleries showcase the region's rich history and culture. Bengaluru's traditional arts and crafts, such as silk weaving and pottery, are still practised and celebrated today.

SPEAK TO US

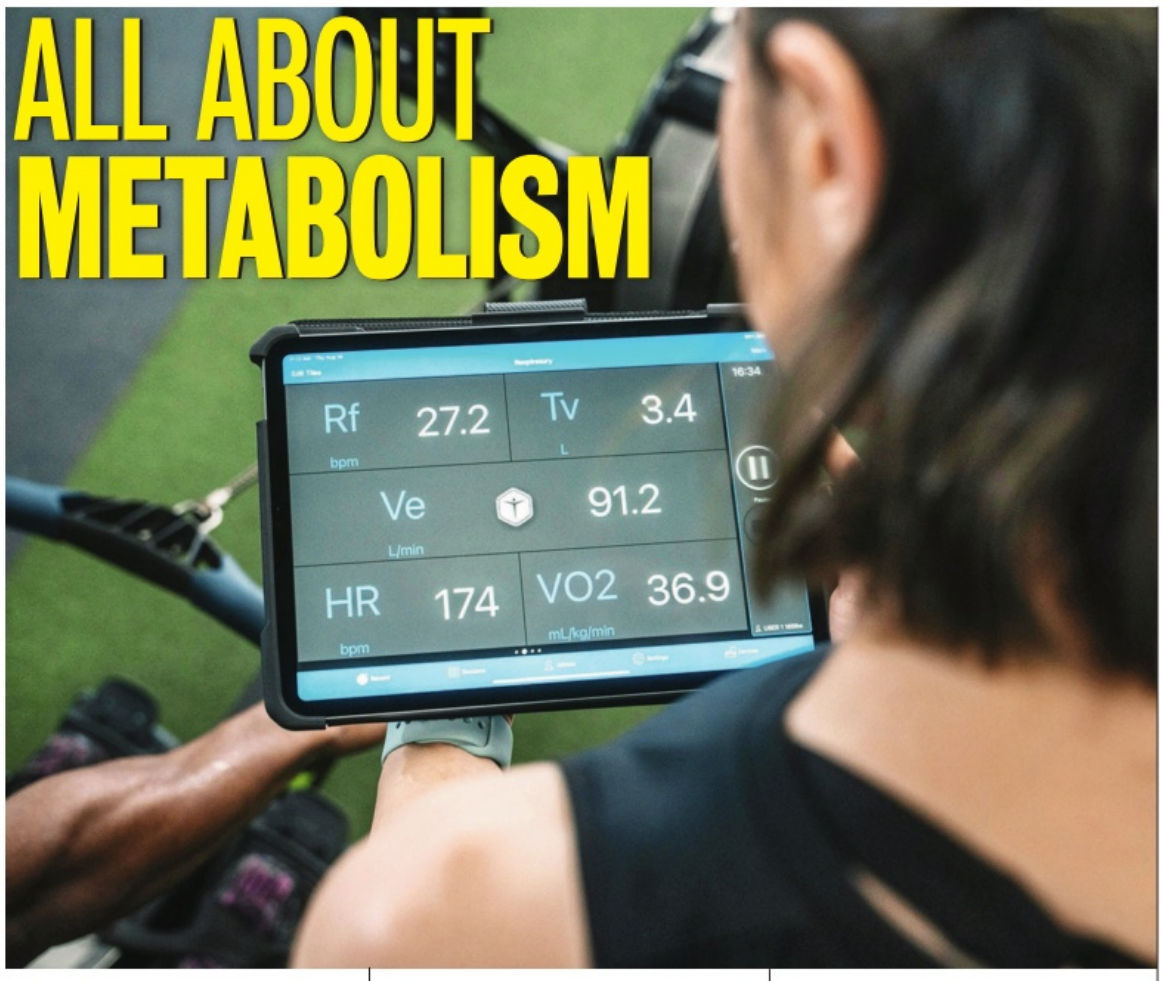
How does the city's educational ecosystem, including prestigious institutions, influence your perspective?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Bean sprouts are rich in protein which is essential to build lean muscle mass and provide the body with energy

Pear can help fight inflammation, promote gut and heart health, protect against some diseases, and aid weight loss

ALL ABOUT METABOLISM



Biochemist explains how different people convert energy differently

If you've spent any time scrolling through the health and wellness corners of social media, you've likely come across many products claiming to improve your metabolism. But what exactly is your metabolism?

Everything you expose your body to – from lifestyle to an airborne virus – influences your physical characteristics, such as your blood pressure and energy levels. Together, these biological characteristics are referred to as your phenotype. And the biological system that most directly influences your phenotype is your metabolism.

So if you are eating something, take medications, smoke or exercise, your metabolism is responsible for transferring that biological information throughout your body for it to adapt.

Metabolism is energy conversion

Your metabolism consists of a network of tens of thousands of molecules and proteins that convert the food you eat into the energy and building blocks your body uses to move, grow and repair itself. At the chemical level, energy metabolism begins when the three macronutrients – carbohydrates, fats and protein – are broken down atom by atom to release electrons from chemical bonds. These electrons charge components in cells called mitochondria.

Akin to how batteries work, mitochondria harness this electrical potential to create a different form of chemical energy that the rest of the cell can use.

Simply put, a primary role of metabolism is to convert chemical energy into electrical energy and back into chemical energy. How this energy is transferred throughout the body might play a central role in determining whether you're sick or healthy.

I am a biochemist who studies the various networks of metabolism that are used as your body changes. My team and I have been able to define specific traits of metabolism, such as the presence and amount of certain metabolites – products made from breaking down macronutrients – across a wide range of conditions.

These conditions include diseases such as covid-19, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and sickle cell anemia, to experiencing unique environments such as radiation exposure, high altitude, aging and sports performance. Each of these settings influences which parts of your metabolic network are used and how they communicate with one another.

> **Your metabolism consists of a network of molecules and proteins that convert the food you eat into the energy and building blocks your body uses**

Elite athletes define the upper limits

Given the alarming rise in obesity and its associated metabolic syndrome – about 1 in 8 people across the globe was living with obesity in 2022 – defining a healthy or impaired metabolism can help identify what's gone wrong and how to address it.

Elite athletes offer a prime population to study metabolic function at its best, since their network of molecular and chemical reactions must be finely tuned to compete on the world stage.

Traditionally, lactate threshold has been a critical measure of athletic performance by pinpointing exercise intensity when lactate starts to rise in muscles and blood.

Contrary to common belief, lactate is not merely a waste product but an energy source as well, and it accumulates when it's produced faster than mitochondria can use it. While a moderately active person might reach their threshold at an exercise intensity of around 2 watts per kilogram, elite cyclists can sustain an intensity up to nearly two to three times higher.

When comparing the lactate thresholds of a group of elite cyclists, we found that the cyclists with higher thresholds had markers of better mitochondrial function. One of these markers was higher production of coenzyme A, a molecule that shuttles carbon around cells and is important for breaking down carbs, amino acids and fat into chemical energy.

Higher-performing cyclists also appeared to burn more fat and burn fat longer during a multistage world tour compared with lower-performing cyclists.

Dysfunctional metabolism in diseases like covid

Your metabolism also changes if you get an acute illness such as covid-19.

In contrast to elite cyclists, covid-19 patients have an impaired ability to burn fat that appears to persist with long covid. The blood of these patients at rest is similar to that of an elite cyclist's at exhaustion. Considering that exercise intolerance frequently occurs with long covid, this suggests mitochondrial dysfunction may play a role in covid-related fatigue.

Burning fat uses a lot of oxygen. covid-19 damages the red blood cells that deliver oxygen to organs. Because red blood cells have a limited ability to repair themselves, they might not function as well during the remainder of their roughly 120-day life span. This may partially explain why covid symptoms last as long as they do in some people.

Blood donors define the middle

Blood transfusions are one of the most common clinical procedures. Over 118 million pints of blood are donated by millions of people worldwide every year. Because blood donors undergo screening to ensure they are healthy enough to donate, they are typically moderately healthy, somewhere between acute illness and elite athletic performance. Blood donors, coming from every walk of life, also have a diverse range of biological traits as a study population.

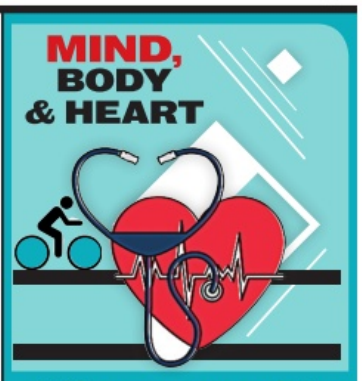
My team and I looked at blood from over 13,000 blood donors to shed light on their metabolic diversity. We found specific traits that could predict how well a donor's blood would work in patients, which also has implications for how well that blood works in the donors themselves.

We found that one of these traits is a metabolite called kynurenine, which is produced from the breakdown of the amino acid tryptophan. We found that blood from donors with higher levels of kynurenine was less likely to restore hemoglobin levels in transfusion recipients compared with donors with lower kynurenine levels.

Kynurenine levels are higher in older donors and donors with a higher BMI, and may potentially be tied to higher levels of inflammation. In support, our group also found that kynurenine increases dramatically in runners participating in the 171-kilometer (106 miles) Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc. In addition, we also identified that kynurenine is a strong marker of COVID-19 severity.

The relationship between metabolites and health outcomes reinforces the important role metabolism plays in the body. Getting a better understanding of what healthy metabolism looks like can offer unique insights into how it deviates when someone gets sick and may offer new approaches to medical treatments.

Travis Nemkov, University of Colorado, The Conversation



All you need to know about...

Energy boosters

Chicory powder
Chicory root has been used for centuries as a coffee substitute due to its rich, roasted flavour and earthy aroma. When ground to a powder and brewed like coffee, chicory provides a similar taste experience without the caffeine. Plus, chicory root contains inulin, a type of soluble fibre that can promote digestive health and help regulate blood sugar levels.

Matcha Latte
Matcha is a finely-ground powder made from green tea leaves, prized for its vibrant green colour and concentrated nutrients. Unlike traditional green tea, matcha involves consuming the whole leaf, providing a more potent dose of antioxidants and caffeine. However, the caffeine in matcha is balanced by its high content of L-theanine, resulting in a calm yet.

Herbal infusions
Herbal teas are not only hydrating but also offer a variety of health benefits, from calming the mind to aiding digestion. Brew up a cup of your favourite herbal infusion and savour the natural goodness in each sip.

Green tea
Green tea is rich in antioxidants and a moderate amount of caffeine, providing just the gentle lift you need without the jittery side effects often associated with coffee. Plus, it contains an amino acid called L-theanine, which can promote a sense of calm focus, making it the perfect beverage to sip on throughout the day.

Kombucha
Kombucha is a fizzy, fermented tea drink that has gained popularity for its tangy flavour and potential health benefits. Made from a combination of tea, sugar, and a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY), kombucha is naturally low in caffeine but high in probiotics

Dr Archana Batra, nutritionist, Femina

GST on online gaming firms: SC transfers all petitions to itself

The Supreme Court on Friday transferred to itself of all the pending cases before various High Courts challenging the imposition of 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on online gaming companies.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra allowed the plea of Centre seeking transfer of all 27 petitions pending in nine High Courts across India.

Several online gaming companies including Gameskraft, Dream 11, Games 24x7, and Head Digital Works have approached the court also challenging the GST imposition.

Earlier, the apex court had stayed the Karnataka High Court verdict quashing the GST intimation notice to the tune of Rs 21,000 crore issued to online gaming firm Gameskraft.

On January 8, the top court had issued notice to the Centre on pleas filed by the E-gaming Federation and others against the levy of 28 per cent GST. **ANI**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rawal Divya Ramesh w/o Akshay Kothari R/o #11/33, Pulliyar Koil Street, Museum Road, Ashok Nagar, B'luru-560025 have changed my name to Divya Rawal vide Affidavit dt 05/04/2024 before notary H R Karunakar B'luru.

I, Vanitha Kiran R/o No 276/a, 10th Cross, Kuvempu Road, New Thippasandra, Blr-75 Changed My Name Vanitha. T.G to Vanitha Kiran for All Future Purposes

WE, Jayakumar Vishwas Srigowtham & Krishna Likhitha Guna residing at 225, T2, Surya Residency, 6th main, 4th block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560011, have changed our minor daughter's name from Vihana Vishwas Srigowtham to Vihana Vishwas as per the documents.

I, Ambika Jallandhar Shenai w/o Mallikarjun V Naik R/o #3363, BDA 4th Block, Sir M.V Layout, Ullalu, B'luru-560110 have changed my name to Ambika Mallikarjun Naik Vide Affidavit Dt: 05/04/2024 Before Notary H R Karunakar B'luru.

I, T N Premkumar Residing at No.89, Nagendra Block, Near PES College, Hanumantha nagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560050 have changed my name from Thowdanahalli Narayanappa Premakumar to T N Premkumar vide affidavit dated 5.4.2024 Sworn Before Notary T.R.Raghavendra Rao, Bengaluru.

I, EDWIN SUSAI RAJ, R/a #2, Infant Jesus Church Main Rd Sonnenahalli Bangalore-47 I, have changed my name to, S PHILLIP EDWIN Vide affidavit dated 18.03.2024 sworn before Notary: S.Subashini Bangalore

I, Vishwanath Kondakundi s/o Damodar Kondakundi R/o No 286, 1st Floor, 20th Main, 4th Block, Nandhini Layout, B'luru-560096 Have Changed my name to Vishwanath D Kondakundi for all Purposes.

I, U K Nandish Residing at No.20, 'Anagha', 6th Block, Bhavani Housing Society, Near Water Tank, Banagiri Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560085 have changed my name from Ummadahalli Krishna Nandisha to U K Nandish vide affidavit dated 5.04.2024 Sworn Before Notary T.R.Ragha vendra Rao, Bengaluru.

I, Harvin Kaur Arora, R/o D1008, Bhartiya Nikoo Homes, Thanisandra Main Road, Bangalore - 560064, have changed my name to Harvin Kaur for all future purposes.

I, Sathish Kumar s/o Subramani R/o #169, 8th Main, Chandranagar, Kumaraswamy Layout, B'luru-560078 Have Changed my name to Sathish Kumar S for all Purposes.

I, Mahaboob Pasah Peer Saab S/O Peer Saab #9 Shivaji Nagar Blr-51 have changed my name to Mahaboob Pasha for all purposes.

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6.5% repo rate; home, auto EMIs to remain unchanged

Rate unchanged since Feb 2023; EMIs likely to remain stable for more time

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday kept the benchmark interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the seventh time in a row and flagged concerns over food inflation in view of IMD's prediction of above normal maximum temperatures during April to June.

As the RBI has held key policy rates steady, EMIs on home and auto loans are likely to remain stable for some more time. The central bank has kept interest rates unchanged since February 2023.

While unveiling the first bimonthly monetary policy for the current financial year, the RBI has retained its growth and inflation forecast for the current fiscal at 7 per cent and 4.5 per cent, respectively. "After a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments and the outlook, it (MPC) decided by a 5 to 1 majority to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

He further said that the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target, while supporting growth.

Commenting on the RBI's decision, SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said the status quo should be seen as an affirmation of goldilocks for India with high growth and low inflation in FY25 and FY26.

The review of the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) framework with the advent of 24/7 payment systems could act as a positive enabler to address frictional liquidity mismatches, Khara said.

While announcing the policy, Das said recent events outside the country have indicated that depositors withdraw or transfer their deposits using digital channels in the event of any stress quickly, and announced the review for ensuring that banks do not suffer in instances of "acute stress".

Comprehensive review of the LCR framework would be undertaken and a draft circular will be issued shortly for stakeholder consultation.

Referring to inflation, Das said food price uncertainties continue to weigh on the inflation trajectory going forward.

–PTI

Take Easy Cues On Culinary Creativity

Culinary nutritionist Eshanka Wahi shares her innovative twists on traditional nutrition to give you cues to do the same

BM FOODIES CORNER

As someone deeply passionate about both nutrition and culinary creativity, I find joy in infusing traditional ingredients with innovative twists to create wholesome and antioxidant-rich meals. Here's how I do it:

Homemade Innovation

I cherish the process of crafting dishes from scratch – even when dining out. This passion fuels my curiosity to decipher restaurant recipes and recreate them at home, using more wholesome ingredients.

Coconut-Infused Dal

One of my favourite creations involves adding coconut milk to dal, along with fragrant curry leaves and mustard seeds. This infusion not only elevates the flavour but also boosts its nutritional content, making it a deeply satisfying and antioxidant-rich meal.

Vegetable Curry Crisps

Leftover vegetable curry becomes a delightful snack with a twist. I blend it with almond flour and baking powder, spread it thin on a baking sheet, and bake it into crispy chips. These chips not only minimise food waste but also offer a healthy alternative to store-bought snacks.

Date-Based Desserts

In my homemade desserts, I exclusively use dates or date paste as a sweetener. Not only does this impart a richer flavour compared to traditional sweeteners, it also adds a dose of antioxidants to every indulgent bite.

Alternative Flours For Rotis

Ditching conventional wheat, I opt for healthier alternatives such as millets, nut and seed powders, and coconut flour to craft traditional rotis. These substitutes not only offer a diverse range of nutrients but also contribute to a more wholesome dining experience.

Nourishing Broth

A staple in my kitchen is a pot of simmering chicken broth, doubling as a flavourful stock for various recipes. **–Femina**

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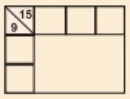
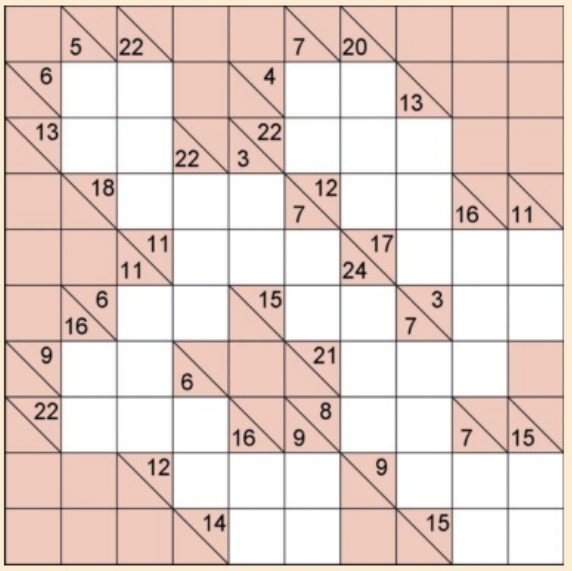
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

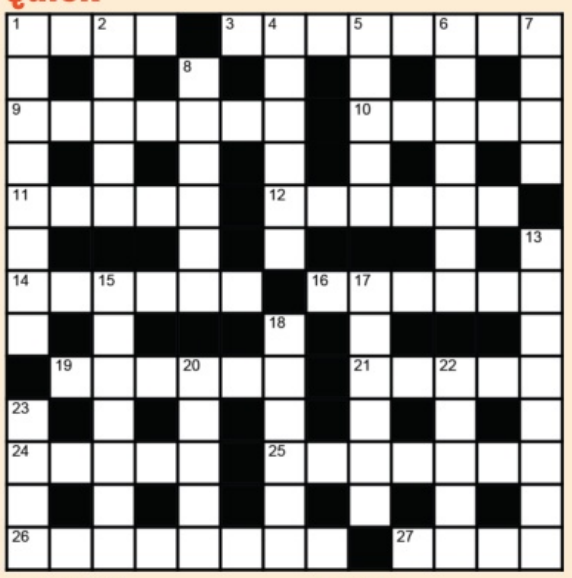


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Bollywood's ___ Ali Khan (4)
3 Did over, revised; modernised (8)
9 Srinagar locale (7)
10 ____ numerals : I,V,X, et al.? (5)
11 Surrender (5)
12 Gnawing animal (6)
14 Playback singer ___ Krishnamoorthy (6)
16 Historic caves: Ajanta and ___ (6)
19 Mark of new driver (1-5)
21 Visitor (5)
24 Fortune-telling cards (5)
25 Home of the Gods in Greek mythology (7)
26 Censure (8)
27 Alkaline solutions (4)

DOWN

1 Japanese dish (8)
2 Hurry (5)
4 Mistakes (6)
5 Bitterly pungent (5)
6 Allspice (7)
7 Completed (4)
8 Among, in the company of (6)
13 Christens, entitles or consecrates (8)
15 Bangalore's famous food street (2,5)
17 An extra run for the batting side? (3-3)
18 Citric fruits (6)
20 Composer ___ Dvorak (5)
22 Containing nothing (5)
23 Sicilian volcano (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS T
BOOV NPS ZYO XFQOC GPTS BFCYOC LOQOS XOM.

Linemaro

You're like a dictionary, you add meaning to my life

Mindchow

Smile is contagious; just smile at someone and see their reaction

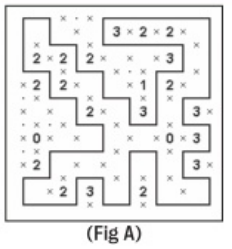
Joke of the day

Whenever A annoys or injures B on the pretence of saving or improving X, A is a scoundrel. – Mencken's Law of Social Reform

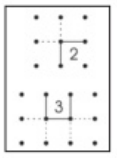
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



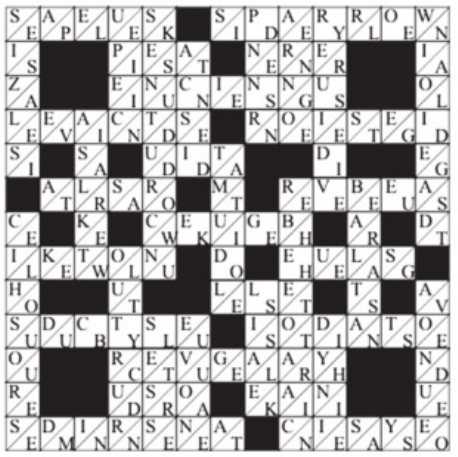
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

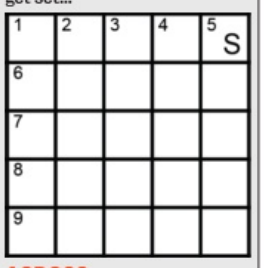
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

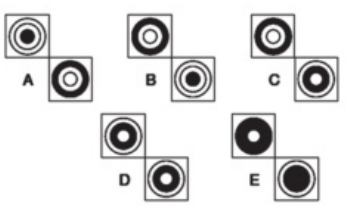
1 Verso; 6 VE Net; 7 Herod; 8 Ratel; 9 Rub no

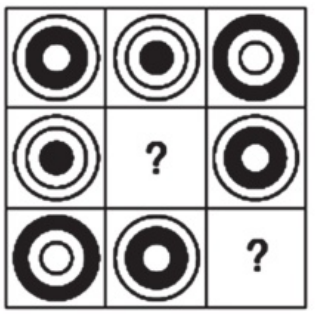
DOWN

1 Brahe; 2 OO Vol; 3 True V; 4 E nerd; 5 Rents

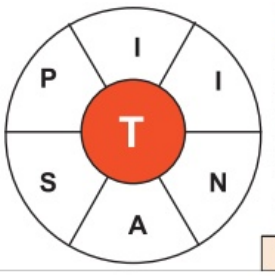
Mensapuzzle

Which two squares are missing?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			9					1
		4	2		6		9	
9			8	5				4
		8				5	4	6
	1						3	
4	3	9				1		
2				6	1			3
	4		7		8	6		
5					9			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
1 3 4 9

Medium = 33
2 3 4 5

Hard = 64
4 8 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

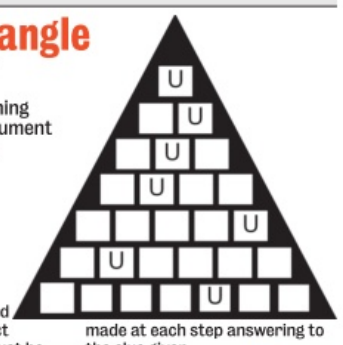
Differences: 1. Strap is hanging from golf bag. 2. Cap is longer. 3. Pocket on bag is lower. 4. Cloud is smaller. 5. Scarf is longer. 6. Mitten is missing.

Riddler

Based on the below information, what does Latika like? Latika likes: prototypes but not samples prerequisites but not requirements, and edamama but not Based on this will she like daffodils or lilies?

Alpha triangle

1 Horseshoe letter
2 Et Brute
3 Objector's beginning
4 Brass band instrument
5 African language
6 Lighter fuel
7 Feast

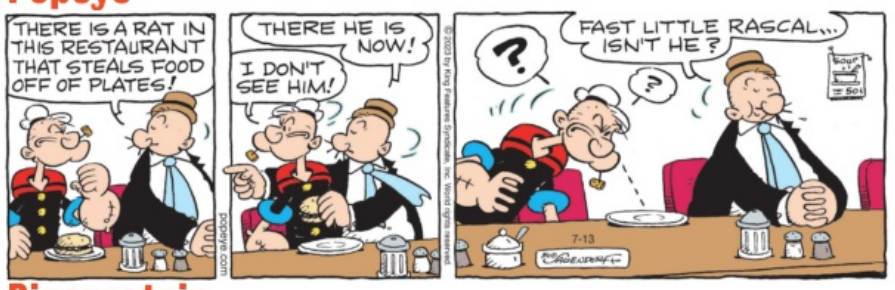


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

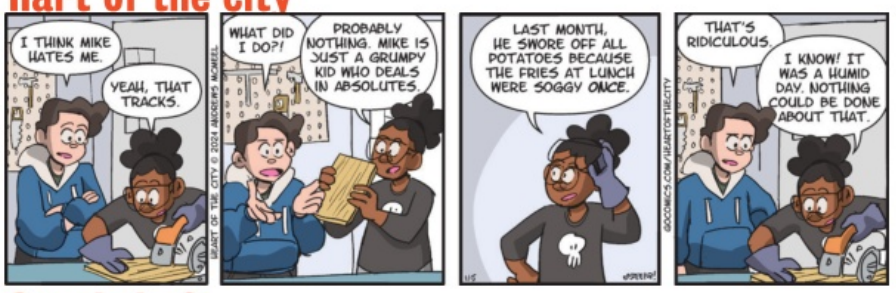
Popeye


THERE IS A RAT IN THIS RESTAURANT THAT STEALS FOOD OFF OF PLATES!
THERE HE IS NOW!
I DON'T SEE HIM!
FAST LITTLE RASCAL... ISN'T HE?
?
?
7-13

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


I THINK MIKE HATES ME.
YEAH, THAT TRACKS.
WHAT DID I DO?!
PROBABLY NOTHING. MIKE IS JUST A GRUMPY KID WHO DEALS IN ABSOLUTES.
LAST MONTH, HE SWORE OFF ALL POTATOES BECAUSE THE FRIES AT LUNCH WERE SOGGY ONCE.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
I KNOW! IT WAS A HUMID DAY. NOTHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT THAT.
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Crankshaft

I HATE IT WHEN THE RACCOONS INVADE MY BIRD FEEDER.
NOT ME...
I JUST THINK OF IT AS A RACCOON FEEDER WITH BIRDS.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
1-4

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dullness due to sleeplessness, causing you to be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious place, but in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders. You may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel dullness in your nature, which may reflect in your way of working. But with the help of elders' blessings, you may likely come back to your speed. You may pay extra attention to kids' health. You will be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors should be careful while making difficult decisions. Stomach issues may upset you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be happy at work. You may likely make some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You may also plan for a short trip. Your subordinates may be cooperative, and you may expect some good news regarding your siblings' success. You may also be in winning positions in legal matters. Students may be more focused on achieving their targets.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your communication skills may help you professionally. You may be more polite with everyone around you, which may speed up your projects. Lovebirds may exchange views, laying the foundation of their relationship.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships may benefit you, and your energy level may be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay off in financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from negative influences.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may likely meet some old friends or be busy in social gatherings. You may be more excited today, with new innovations in terms of business and unexpected material gains. Kids may bring good news regarding studies, and lovebirds may enjoy quality moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you are blessed by the moon, and your small investments may convert into big profits. Your working efficiency may increase, leading to success with less effort. You may hear good news in legal matters and have full control over opponents and rivals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you are blessed by the moon, and your small efforts may bring success. You may have good profits from past investments and rewards for your hard work in professional and domestic life. Your prestige may increase, and disputes with your spouse may be resolved. You may start new innovations in business.

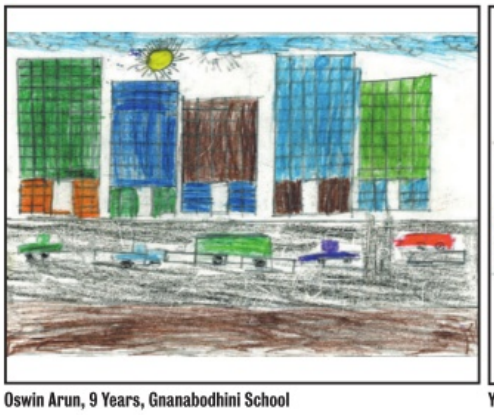
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel better, with situations under control. Your network may help you on the work front, and you may plan for overseas travel. It's a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life, bringing creative artefacts for the family. You may also plan to watch movies or go for outings with friends or family.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may get tired due to overworking, which may make you lazy and careless. It's advised to keep patience and postpone adventure plans. Past investments may turn into dead stock, and students are advised to work hard. You may experience backaches, nervous system issues, liver-related problems, and skin issues.

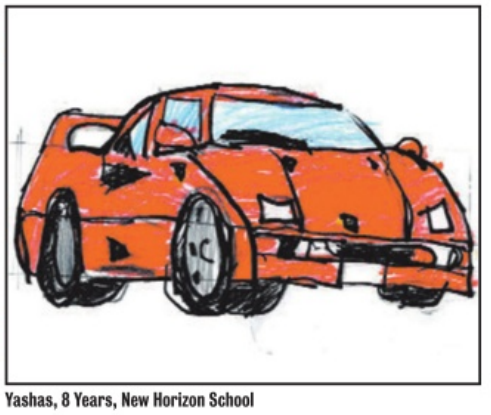
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your creativity may be high, leading you to plan house renovations or buy items to increase your social status. There's likely harmony with your spouse, settling disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners. Good news may come regarding litigations.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be glad, to maintain a balance between earning and expenditure, boosting your finances. Your network will help you implement plans, and siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful. Plan to visit elders or religious places.

KIDZONE



Oswin Arun, 9 Years, Gnanabodhini School



Yashas, 8 Years, New Horizon School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(20+10+6)
√36
6

QUOTE UNCODE
Weep for the lives
your wishes never
led.

BULL'S EYE
inapt, paint, pant,
past, PLANIST, plint,
salnt, satin, spat,
spit, stain

FAST FIVE

R	O	V	E	S
A	L	T	E	R
H	O	R	D	E
E	V	E	N	T
B	O	U	R	N

STRIKE OUT

S	A	L	E	S		S	P	A	R	R	O	W		
I		P	E	A		E	R	E		I				
Z		I	N	N	I	N	G	S		L				
I		P	E	A		S	E	R		I				
E	V	I	C	T	S		N	O	I	S	E	D		
S		S	D	I	A		D			E				
		A	L	S	O		M		R	E	B	U	S	
C		E	W	E	I	G	H		A		T			
L	E	T	O	N		D		E	E	L	S			
O		U		E	S	T		S		V				
U		R	E	V	E	L	R	Y		N				
S	U	B	T	L	E		I	O	D	A	T	E		
	L	P	L	A	T	E		G	U	E	S	T		
I		V		L			E				P			
K	A	V	I	T	A		E	L	L	O	R	A		
A		S		S		M		R	E	B	U	S		
Y	I	E	L	D		R	O	D	E	N	T			
I		T		I		O		I		E				
K	A	S	H	M	I	R		R	O	M	A	N		
U		A		A		R		C		I		O		
S	O	H	A		R	E	V	A	M	P	E	D		
A	D	M	O	N	I	S	H		L	Y	E	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
8: in each line both across and down, one of the three rings is black.

RIDDLER
Lilies, because she likes words that contain letters in the pattern ABAB

SUDOKU

5	8	6	3	4	9	2	1	7
1	4	3	7	2	8	6	5	9
2	9	7	5	6	1	4	8	3
4	3	9	6	8	5	1	7	2
6	1	5	4	7	2	9	3	8
7	2	8	1	9	3	5	4	6
9	6	1	8	5	7	3	2	4
3	7	4	2	1	6	8	9	5
8	5	2	9	3	4	7	6	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Tu, But,
Tuba, Bantu,
Butane,
Banquet.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 − 4 + 1 − 3 = 3
Medium
2 + 4 x 5 + 3 = 33
Hard
8 + 4 x 6 − 8 = 64

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 014 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Fake plastic rumours— Kiara Advani spoke about how upset she was when she attended an event and people trolled her saying she had got plastic surgery done. She said, "The irony of it was that I almost believed that I had done something to myself"

BangaloreMirror | 14
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

MIGHT MISS MET

It is all happening in terms of work and personal life for DP in 2024

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone had fans counting down the days to her rumoured appearance at the MET Gala 2024. Reports doing the rounds claimed that the actress was set to debut her baby bump on the iconic stairs as she joined a host of celebs keeping up with the theme - 'Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion'.

However, according to the latest updates, those waiting to see DP at the MET, may just have to wait a tad longer as she will likely skip the event owing to her hectic work commitments.

The mommy-to-be has been running on a tight schedule. She is currently busy shooting for 'Singham Again' and preparing for the launch of 'Kalki 2898 AD', scheduled for its May 9 release.

"Deepika Padukone has been a regular on the MET Gala Red Carpet. It is only natural for fans to anticipate her appearance at this year's MET Gala," a source stated and went on to add, "However, Deepika is in the midst of filming for 'Singham 3' and preparing for the release of 'Kalki 2898 AD,' both of which coincide with this year's MET Gala. She will therefore not be attending this year's event."

As the MET is scheduled to take place on May 6, 2024, the first Monday of May, it will likely clash with the actress' promotional schedule for 'Kalki 2898 AD' that is slated to release on May 9.

Padukone made her MET Gala debut in 2019, in a sleek Tommy Hilfiger gown, marking the beginning of her journey as India's prominent global ambassador.

Subsequent years witnessed her donning extravagant ensembles, including creations by renowned designers such as Prabal Gurung and Zac Posen. The dress code for the event this year is "The Garden of Time." The 2024 Met Gala hosts are Zendaya, Jennifer Lopez, Bad Bunny, and Chris Hemsworth. —ETimes

Brad Pitt's physical abuse 'started before' 2016

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie is claiming that her former husband Brad Pitt's physical abuse toward her "started well before" the 2016 plane incident that led her to file for divorce. The claims are as per documents obtained by Page Six. The actress' legal team made the claims in an attempt to release communications that would prove the Pitt refused to allow his ex-wife to sell her portion of their Chateau Miraval French winery unless she signed an "onerous" and "expansive" NDA.

"While Pitt's history of physical abuse of Jolie started well before the family's September 2016 plane trip from France to Los Angeles, this flight marked the first time he turned his physical abuse on the children as well. Jolie then immediately left him," it reads.

According to the filing, the NDA Pitt reportedly asked Jolie, that she would cover his "personal misconduct, whether related to Miraval or not," in an attempt to prevent her from speaking on his alleged abuse. Her lawyers also claimed Pitt wanted her to "contractually bind herself" to silence after he discovered in 2021 that she submitted a sealed filing, consisting of "emails, summaries of the family's expected testimony and other evidence" to help settle their child custody dispute.

At the time, Pitt agreed to purchase Jolie's shares of the French winery but backed out as he feared his ex's sealed documents "could eventually become public," the documents continue.

—IANS

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Purple daze

Sonakshi Sinha rewrites the rules of ethnic fashion in this dazzling purple set

Man of many talents

Bharjari Gandu

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Prasiddh
- **ACTORS** Kiran Raj, Yasha Shivakumar, Ramesh Bhat, Veena Sunder, Rakesh Raj, Surekha Venkatesh
- **Duration** 132 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Prasiddh, known for Ratnamanjari, has selected a good subject that has all elements to entertain family as well as mass audiences. The director has tried to showcase the hero, as the movie's title suggests, as a multi-talented person who can achieve anything at any time without any hassles. The movie is a mix of events taking place in a village as well as a city.

The movie opens with a couple and their child coming to the village on a private bus. The couple gets killed mysteriously as soon as they enter their relative's house in the village. Later the scene is shifted to the temple where Ajjaiah (Ramesh Bhat) is seen trying to convince the village leaders to make arrangements for the fair. The village leaders get busy with organising traditional games. At this juncture, Akash (Kiran Raj) enters the village and participates in the traditional games and, emerges victorious. Smitten with the beauty of Jyothi (Yasha Shivakumar), Akash falls in love with her.

Meanwhile, Akash comes to know that Gowda, the village leader, has joined hands with middlemen to exploit farmers. An unfortunate incident takes place and police enter the village. The police reveal his story stating how he attacked Rocky (Rakesh Raj) for harassing his best friend Aishwarya (Surekha Venkatesh). What happens to Akash and Jyothi is what Bharjari Gandu is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Kiran Raj has done all he can to showcase his acting skills. The movie has provided him an ample opportunity to prove his mettle in dance, emotions and action. Yasha Shivakumar looks beautiful but has a limited scope to act. It is a pity to see veteran director Victory Vasu in such a pathetic character. It has no history or background and also it appears and disappears without any valid reason. Ramesh Bhat, Kari Subbu, and Veena Sundar provide good support.

The movie would have been a good entertainer, if the director had ensured that that screenplay was crisp. A few scenes, especially the scene where the hero gets attracted by the sound of the heroine's anklet and the other scene where the heroine is seen talking with flowers, are hard to digest as on the other hand the movie is harping on how farmers are facing problems for the third or fourth consecutive year due to acute drought.

Having said that, the movie is worth a watch.

—Y Maheswara Reddy